

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 GABORO 01595 311110Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00  
COME-00 EB-08 FRB-01 INR-10 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-07  
TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 ICA-20 XMB-04  
OPIC-06 NSC-05 SS-15 AGRE-00 IO-14 PA-02 /129 W  
-----020351 010157Z /14

R 311003Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2338

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

UNCLAS GABORONE 1595

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EPAP BC

SUBJ: BOTSWANA BEEF

REF: (A) GABORONE 1208, (B) GABORONE 1446, (C) BRUSSELS 10145

1. MAY 26 DAILY NEWS REPORTS ANNOUNCEMENT BY DIRECTOR VETERINARY SERVICES THAT WHOLE OF CENTRAL DISTRICT AND THE CHOBE DISTRICT ARE FREE OF FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE. INTENSIVE INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT IN MAY PROVED NO ACTIVE INFECTION IN THE TWO AREAS. ANNOUNCEMENT SAID THAT DESPITE THESE ENCOURAGING DEVELOPMENTS, RESTRICTIONS ON THE MOVEMENT OF CATTLE THERE WOULD CONTINUE FOR SOME TIME AND PRODUCERS WOULD NOT BE PERMITTED TO SEND THEIR CATTLE TO THE LOBATSE ABATTOIR UNTIL RECEIVING GREEN LIGHT FROM THE AGMIN. CONCERNING NGAMILAND DISTRICT, THE ANNOUNCEMENT SAID A SMALL AMOUNT OF THE INFECTION STILL OCCURS IN THE LAKE NGAMI AND HAINA VELD AREAS WHERE THE VACCINATION PROGRAM CONTINUES.

2. IN RELATED DEVELOPMENT, MAY 30 DAILY NEWS REPORTED  
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SIGNING OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN GOB AND FRENCH AUTHORITIES ON BUILDING OF A VACCINE FACTORY AS REPORTED REF A. EMERGENCY FIRST PHASE CONSTRUCTION OF THE PROJECT, KNOWN AS THE VACCINE PRODUCTION INSTITUTE, WILL BEGIN IN JULY IN GABORONE WITH ARRIVAL OF FRENCH TECHNICIANS AND MATERIALS. FIRST PHASE SHOULD COST PULA 1.5 MILLION AND PROVIDE TWO MILLION MONO-VALENT DOSES EACH YEAR. SECOND PHASE SHOULD BEGIN TWO YEARS LATER

AND WILL CONSIST OF A PERMANENT UNIT CAPABLE OF PRODUCING FIVE MILLION TRI-VALENT DOSES EACH YEAR (NOTE: SOURCE QUOTED REF A PLACED OUTPUT AT 20 MILLION DOSES).

3. FINALLY, EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS FROM AGMIN SOURCE THAT CORNED BEEF CANNING FACTORY IS NOW IN OPERATION IN LOBATSE AND THAT GERMANS HAVE AGREED TO BUY SOME OF PRODUCTION.

4. COMMENT: ENCOURAGING NEWS THAT HOOF AND MOUTH DISEASE SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN ERADICATED IN TWO DISTRICTS AND IS DWINDLING OUT IN THE THIRD INFECTED DISTRICT FOLLOWS WELCOME ANNOUNCEMENT BY PRESIDENT KHAMA (SEE GABORONE A15 OF MAY 31) THAT TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS HAVE BEEN LIFTED SO THAT CATTLE IN ENTIRE AREA EAST OF RAILWAY MAY PROCEED TO ABATTOIR. THIS DEVELOPMENT FAVORABLY AFFECTS ONE OF MAJOR CATTLE PRODUCING AREAS IN BOTSWANA.

5. WITH THE FMD APPARENTLY DYING OUT, THE ABATTOIR IN OPERATION SINCE JANUARY, TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS PARTIALLY LIFTED (SEE PARA 4), THE CANNING AND VACCINE OPERATIONS UNDERWAY, AND SOUTH AFRICA CONTINUING TO IMPORT BOTSWANA BEEF, DEVELOPMENTS ARE MOVING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION AND THE LIVESTOCK PICTURE HAS SOMEWHAT IMPROVED. NEVERTHELESS, THESE IMPROVEMENT WILL NOT COUNT FOR MUCH UNTIL BOTSWANA'S MAIN CUSTOMER, THE EEC, IS WILLING TO RESUME ITS IMPORTS OF BEEF.

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 78 GABORONE 1208, 78 GABORONE 1446, 78 BRUSSELS 10145  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014